

**MEMPHIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TENNESSEE BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 29, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jordan Ware** of **Memphis Central High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Ware is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Memphis Central High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Ware as Tennessee's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Ware joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Nico Young (2019-20, Newbury Park High School, Calif.), Michael Norman (2015-16 & 2014-15, Vista Murrieta High School, Calif.), Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas).

The state's returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Player of the Year, 6-foot-3, 180-pound senior set two state records and shared in another at the Class AAA state meet this past season, leading the Warriors to a state championship as a team. Ware broke the tape in the 100-meter dash in 10.13 seconds, which ranked No. 2 nationally among prep competitors in 2023 and No. 8 in U.S. prep history. He also set a state record in the 200 with a time of 20.63, which ranked No. 8 nationally this spring, in addition to running the anchor leg on Central's state record-setting 4x100 relay quartet, which clocked a 40.86.

Ware has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church, and he's donated his time as a youth mentor. "Jordan Ware enjoyed a dream season for the Warriors this past spring, establishing himself as one of the state's all-time greats," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "The Mississippi State-bound phenom swept the 100- and 200-meter state titles, set state records in both the 100 and 200, and anchored the 4x100 relay to the state record. He graduated as one of the 10 fastest 100-meter men in U.S prep history."

Ware has maintained a weighted 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Mississippi State University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Ware joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Miles Ally (2020-21, Martin Luther King Jr. High School), Brevin Sims (2019-20, Chattanooga School for the Arts & Sciences), and Emmanuel Bynum (2018-19, Whitehaven High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).